

Composting And Manure Management

Why Compost Manure?

A horse can produce an average of 50 pounds of waste daily—that's 2 tons per year! Just as managing sewage in urban areas is key to human health, managing manure is important to horse health.

Two common manure management practices include applying it directly to the landscape or having it hauled away. However, with a little time and energy, the manure can be turned into a wonderfully useful product that can enrich any garden or landscape.

Benefits of Composting Horse Manure

- ❑ Eliminating the breeding ground for flies.
- ❑ Killing harmful parasites (including worm eggs), bacteria, and weed seeds.
- ❑ Reducing the volume of raw material by half.
- ❑ Eliminating foul odors.
- ❑ Being relatively inexpensive and simple to do.
- ❑ Creating a final product that is an outstanding soil amendment and mulch that can be used in gardens, pastures, and the landscape.
- ❑ Reducing the possibility of contaminated runoff leaving the horse property.

! Water that is released into the streets, gutters, and storm drains in San Diego County is not treated before it reaches our local creeks, rivers, and the ocean. All sources of pollution are prohibited from leaving your property and entering streets or storm drains. Only rainwater is allowed in the streets and storm drains.

Help protect our waterways by composting horse manure. The tips provided on the back will help you along the way.

more tips >>>

thank you for doing your part to protect our waterways.



County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program **1-800-846-0800**
watersheds@sdcounty.ca.gov | www.sandiegocounty.gov/stormwater



Suggestions for Successful Composting

Bins

- One 5' x 5' x 5' bin per horse.
- If manure fills up more than six bins, you may want to consider a windrow composting system.

Covering

- Cover your pile to help retain moisture, and to avoid runoff contamination during rain.

Pile

- A pile size of at least 4' x 4' x 4' is best to achieve composting temperatures.
- The base width of the pile should be twice its height.

Site

- Place pile(s) at least 150 feet away from drainages, ponds, and wells.
- Create and maintain buffer areas.
- Pile on top of compacted soil, in large bins, or on a concrete or asphalt pad.

Turning

- To avoid disease problems and keep temperatures up, piles should be turned about once per week.

Watering

- Compost should be kept as damp as a wrung-out sponge.
- No runoff should leave the area.

County Regulations That Protect Your Health, Water, and Land

- The County's **Watershed Protection Ordinance** requires that manure be cleaned up at least twice a week and composted or stored in a manner that prevents runoff prior to disposal.
- Composting of horse manure is allowed in San Diego County as an accessory use for residential horse owners.
- Homeowners can use finished compost on-site or give it away, but cannot sell it.

thank you for doing your part to protect our waterways.



For more information on regulations, contact the County's Department of Planning and Development Services at (858) 694-2960.

Resources

County of San Diego Recycling

www.wastefreesd.org | 1-877-R-1-EARTH (1-877-713-2784)

Solana Center for Environmental Innovation

www.solanacenter.org | (760) 436-4986 x700

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